

FISH and WILDLIFE COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET

Meeting Date: April 19, 2018

Agenda Item: Addition to Garrity Mountain Wildlife Management Area (R2)

Division: Wildlife

Action Needed: Endorsement

Time Needed on Agenda for this Presentation: 15 Minutes

Background

This project represents a unique opportunity for Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP) to purchase a private inholding totaling approximately 134 acres of important wildlife and fish habitat along Warm Springs Creek and to block up FWP ownership and management of the Garrity Mountain Wildlife Management Area (WMA). The property fills in a gap in public ownership, connecting a portion of the WMA to a public road and connecting a bighorn sheep migration corridor between Blue Eyed Nellie WMA and the Garrity Mountain WMA. Project partners have approached the owners, YT Timber, and their agent and they have agreed to sell these parcels to FWP to ensure public access is protected and the existing habitat is not further fractured.

Public Involvement Process & Results

FWP Region 2 would implement a public involvement process under MEPA and subsequently make a recommendation to the commission, pending the outcomes of environmental analysis and due diligence.

Alternatives and Analysis

No action is the only viable alternative to this proposal, which would leave these private inholdings available for subdivision and development, as is planned for the remainder of the larger YT Timber parcel.

Agency Recommendation & Rationale

FWP recommends endorsement of this proposal, allowing the department to further pursue and evaluate this proposal and to offer opportunities for public review and comment.

Proposed Motion: I move the Fish and Wildlife Commission endorse this addition to the Garrity Mountain Wildlife Management Area, allowing the Department to conduct further analysis and associated public review.